

PRESS OFFICE

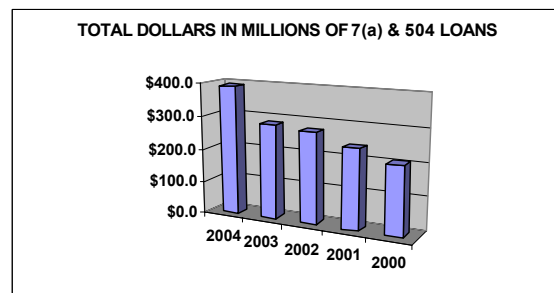
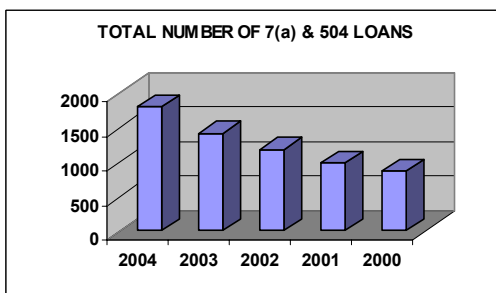
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Wisconsin SBA Increases Lending by Over \$100 Million In 2004

Milwaukee/Madison: In Fiscal Year 2004 that ended September 30, 2004, the Small Business Administration in Wisconsin closed out the year with record breaking numbers. In Wisconsin, SBA approved 1,635 7(a) loans totaling \$308 million to small businesses, and 173 loans worth \$82 million under the 504, or Certified Development Company program.



Women and minorities increased their numbers as well. Loans to minorities and women increased by 46 percent. Loans to veterans increased by 17 percent.

Wisconsin's SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) counseled/trained 7,637 clients. Wisconsin's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC's) assisted 11,949 clients and Wisconsin's Women Business Centers assisted 3,659 clients.

Wisconsin SBA District Director Eric Ness said, "Small businesses create approximately 75 percent of the new jobs so it is important that small businesses get the needed capital. SBA is proud to play a part in providing over \$300 million to Wisconsin small businesses."

*Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available
at SBA's Web site: www.sba.gov and Wisconsin's SBA Website: www.sba.gov/wi*